

Appln. No. 09/867,180
Amendment dated November 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 11 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method for responding to access to a service provider site for providing contents via a communication network in which the service provider site transmits, when an access request is made on a screen of an
5 affiliation site from a requesting terminal of [[an]] the affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site, contents of the service provider site to the requesting terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

storing user verification data and an identifier of the
10 affiliation site, which is affiliated with the service provider site, both in the affiliation site and in the service provider site;

transmitting an access request from the affiliation site to the service provider site with the identifier of the affiliation

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15 site when the affiliation site receives an access request from
the requesting terminal;

determining, by the service provider site, whether the
access request is made via the affiliation site based on whether
the access request includes the identifier of the affiliation
20 site;

changing, by the service provider site, a part of the
contents to be transmitted to the requesting terminal to
predetermined information corresponding to the affiliation site
when the access request is made via the affiliation site;

25 transmitting, by the service provider site, the contents
including the predetermined information to the requesting
terminal and waiting for a user verification request from the
requesting terminal before starting service provision; and

storing, by the service provider site, user information of
30 the requesting terminal relating to the service provision into a
session control table relating to the affiliation site.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

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Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

accumulating a service usage time of the service provider site when the access request is made via the affiliation

5 [[sites]] site; and

determining a charge based on the accumulated service usage time every predetermined period of time and conducting a charging procedure to an enterprise of the affiliation [[sites]] site.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). A service information providing method in which a service provider site provides via a communication network to a user terminal of an affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site, a service item

5 corresponding to an access request from the user terminal on a screen of the affiliation site, the access request including an identifier of the affiliation site, the method comprising the steps of:

storing an identifier of the affiliation site affiliated

10 with the service provider site both in the service provider site and in the affiliation site;

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providing, by the service provider site, to the user
terminal a predetermined content corresponding to the service
item in response to the access request on a screen of the

15 affiliation site;

receiving, by the service provider site, response
information relating to the provided content from the user
terminal via the communication network and determining whether
the access request is transmitted from the affiliation site based
20 on whether the access request includes the identifier of the
affiliation site when a predetermined processing is to be
performed with regard to the response information; and

performing, by the service provider site, the predetermined
processing based on a result of the determination.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). The method according to
claim 6, wherein said predetermined processing is a processing
for preparing an electronic mail in response to the response
information and transmitting the mail via the communication
5 network to another terminal which is different from the user
terminal, the electronic mail being transmitted to a terminal
belonging to the affiliation site when the response information
is transmitted from the affiliation site and to a terminal

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belonging to the service provider site when the response
10 information is not transmitted from the affiliation site.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture
comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable
program code means embodied therein for responding to access to a
service provider site for providing contents via a communication
5 network in which the service provider site transmits, when an
access request is made on a screen of an affiliation site from a
requesting terminal of an affiliation site affiliated with the
service provider site, contents of the service provider site to
the requesting terminal, the computer readable program code means
10 comprising:

computer readable program code means for storing user
verification data and an identifier of the affiliation site,
which is affiliated with the service provider site, both in the
affiliation site and in the service provider site;

15 computer readable program code means for transmitting an
access request from the affiliation site to the service provider
site with an identifier of the affiliation site when the
affiliation site receives an access request from the requesting
terminal;

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20 computer readable program code means for determining, by the
service provider site, whether the access request is made via the
affiliation site based on whether the access request includes the
identifier of the affiliation site;

computer readable program code means for changing, the
25 service provider site, a part of the contents to be transmitted
to the requesting terminal to predetermined information
corresponding to the affiliation site when the access request is
made via the affiliation site;

computer readable program code means for transmitting, by
30 the service provider site, the contents including the
predetermined information to the requesting terminal and waiting
for a user verification request from the requesting terminal
before starting service provision; and

computer readable program code means for storing, by the
35 service provider site, user information of the requesting
terminal relating to the service provision into a session control
table relating to the affiliation site.

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture
comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable

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program code means embodied therein for providing, by a service provider site to a user terminal of an affiliation site

5 affiliated with the service provider site via a communication network, a service item corresponding to an access request from the user terminal on a screen of the affiliation site, the access request including an identifier of the affiliation site, the computer readable program code means comprising:

10 computer readable program code means for storing an identifier of the affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site both in the affiliation site and in the service provider site;

computer readable program code means for providing, by the
15 service provider site, to the user terminal predetermined content corresponding to ~~[[the]]~~ a service item in response to designated by the access request user terminal;

computer readable program code means for receiving, by the
service provider site, response information relating to the
20 provided content from the user terminal via the communication network and determining whether the access request is transmitted from the affiliation site based on whether the access request includes the identifier of the affiliation site when a predetermined processing is to be performed with regard to the
25 response information; and

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computer readable program code means for performing, by the service provider site, the predetermined processing based on a result of the determination.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A method of providing a home page of a service provider site and a home page of an affiliation site affiliated with the service provider via a communication network, when an access request is made on a screen of the
5 affiliation site from a requesting terminal of the affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site, the method comprising:

storing an identifier of the affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site both in the affiliation site and
10 in the service provider site;

receiving, by the affiliation site, a request for the home page of the service provider from a user of the affiliation site;

transferring, by the affiliation site, the request for the home page of the service provider to the service provider site
15 with an identifier of the affiliation site;

determining, by the service provider site, whether the user is a member of the affiliation site based on whether the request includes the identifier of the affiliation site; and

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transmitting the home page of the service provider to the
20 user by the service provider site when the user is a member of
the affiliation site.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented). The method according to
claim 11, wherein the service provider site receives the request
with an identifier indicating that the user is a member of the
affiliation site and determines whether the user is a member of
5 the affiliation site based on the identifier.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented). The method according to
claim 12, wherein the service provider site modifies the home
page of the service provider site based on the identifier of the
affiliation site when it is determined that the user is a member
5 of the affiliation site.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The method according to
claim 12, wherein the service provider site updates charging
information for the user and charges the affiliation site when it
is determined that the user is a member of the affiliation site.

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

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Claims 16 (Cancelled).

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